

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 7-10, 13-15, 18-20, and 22-29 are pending in this application. Claims 1-6, 11, 12, 16, 17 and 21 were previously cancelled. Claims 18, 19 and 29 are amended. Claims 18, 19, and 29 are independent.

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claim for Priority

The Examiner is requested to acknowledge Applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document filed with the application on September 8, 2000.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 14, 19, 20, 22, 23, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakaya et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,684,884) in view Park et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,684,884) and Morita et al, (U.S. Patent No. 5,185,550) and Szilagyi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,396,197); and

Claims 7-10, 13, 15, 18, 24-25, 27, and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakaya et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,684,884) in view of Davis et al. (U. S. Patent No. 6,345,102) and Szilagyi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,396,197).

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, each of independent claims 18, 19, and 29 is amended as shown below to recite a combination of elements not disclosed or suggested by the references cited by the Examiner.

Amendments to Independent Claims 18 and 29

In particular, independent claim 18 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a piezoelectric speaker, including *inter alia*

a laminating film having a central portion and a peripheral portion,

the central portion covering and protecting an entire back surface of said piezoelectric film, and

the peripheral portion extending beyond all sides of the piezoelectric film for covering and protecting sides edges of the piezoelectric film that are perpendicular to the back surface, and for attaching to peripheral portions of said back surface of said frame; and

a front side of the piezoelectric film being exposed.

In addition, independent claim 29 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a piezoelectric speaker, including *inter alia*

a piezoelectric film having a surface area larger than the opening in said frame and having width and length dimensions smaller than width and length dimensions of the frame, the piezoelectric film being centrally located on said back surface of said frame and covering said opening but not covering portions of the back surface of the frame adjacent to a

perimeter of the frame, the piezoelectric film being supported by the curved frame and having a radius of curvature substantially equal to a radius of curvature of the frame;

a laminating film for covering and protecting the back surface and outer edges of said piezoelectric film, the laminating film having width and length dimensions greater than the width and the length dimensions of the piezoelectric film and extending over and attaching to the portions of the back surface of the frame adjacent to the perimeter of the frame; and

a front side of the piezoelectric film being exposed.

Support for the novel features set forth in claims 18 and 29 can be found in the specification, for example, in FIGS. 1, 4, and 5.

Regarding the Nakaya et al. reference, FIG. 3 merely shows support layer 8 having the same lateral dimensions as the piezoelectric sheet 4, and merely shows that piezoelectric sheet 4 is not exposed, but instead is covered by protective film 9.

Further, as can be seen in Davis et al. FIGS. 2-4, this document merely discloses fixing material 32 arranged around the perimeter of sun visor attachment 24, the fixing material for fixing the visor attachment to the visor 10. Moreover, since fixing material 32 on the visor attachment 24 is completely different in structure and purpose from the presently claimed invention, the Applicants respectfully submit that Davis et al. is not analogous art, and thus cannot be properly used in this rejection.

Szilagyi is cited merely to suggest detachable fasteners.

Thus, the Applicants respectfully submit that no combination of Nakaya et al. and Davis et al., and Szilagyi suggests the subject matter set forth in either of claims 18 and 19.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit the Examiner has failed to make a *prima facie* case of obviousness in the rejection of independent claims 18 and 29.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of elements set forth in each of independent claims 18 and 29, as amended herein, is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Nakaya et al., Davis et al., and Szilagyi et al.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 18 and 29 are in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 18 and 29 as being unpatentable over the combination of Nakaya et al., Davis et al. and Szilagyi et al.

Amendments to Independent Claim 19

Independent claim 19 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a speaker system, including *inter alia*

one of the frame pieces having multiple claws,
the claws capable of holding the piezoelectric film speaker between the frame pieces when the claws are clamped into L-shaped recesses formed on edges of the other of the frame pieces, and

the claws being capable of releasing the piezoelectric film speaker from between the frame pieces when the claws are unclamped from the L-shaped recesses formed on the edges of the other of the frame pieces, and

exposing a central portion of a front side of the piezoelectric film to a person's ear.

Support for the novel features claimed in independent claim 19 can be found in the specification, for example, on page 6, lines 12-26. See also FIG. 7.

The Examiner points out that Morita et al. FIGS. 6a, 7b, and 8b teach claws 122. However, as can be seen in these FIGS. the Morita et al. claws do not clamp and unclamp from L-shaped recesses, as presently claims. The claws 122 of Morita et al. are completely different and are fixed in place by conductive adhesive 123. Thus, the Morita et al. claws 122 cannot unclamp, as presently claimed.

Thus, the Morita et al. cannot make up for the deficiencies of Nakaya et al., Park et al., and Szilagyi et al. to reject independent claim 19.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 19 is in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 19 as being unpatentable over the combination of Nakaya et al., Park et al., Morita et al., and Szilagyi et al.

In summary, independent claims 18, 19, and 29 are in condition for allowance.

Since the dependent claims depend directly or indirectly from allowable independent claims 18, 19, and 29 they are also allowable due to their dependence on allowable independent claims, or due to the additional features provided by these claims.

Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

All the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the outstanding objection and rejection and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

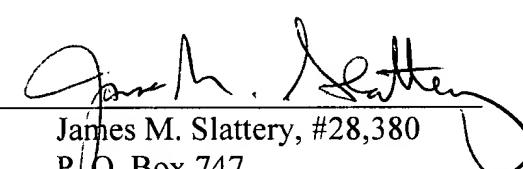
However, if there are any outstanding issues, the Examiner is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen, Reg. No. 50,786, at 703-205-8000 in an effort to expedite prosecution.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Dated: NOV 28 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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